

# VETAC

## Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee

[www.pen.k12.va.us/Div/VETAC](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/Div/VETAC)

**Blackbox Theater  
Kings Fork High School  
315 King's Fork Road  
Suffolk, Virginia  
February 8, 2005  
10:00 a.m.**

### **Attendance**

Jim Carroll – Chair - Medium School Division  
Pamela Burnette – Regional Study Group VII Representative  
Susan Clair - Department of Correctional Education  
Janet Copenhaver - Regional Study Group VI Representative  
Larry Crum – Business and Industry Representative  
Bill Dotson - Virginia Society for Technology in Education  
Janet Duff – Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals  
Alan Edwards - State Council of Higher Education in Virginia  
Bill Flaherty - Virginia Association of School Business Officials  
Phyllis Geron – Virginia Electronic Student Information Systems  
Joe Hill - Regional Study Group V Representative  
Jane James - Virginia Educational Media Association  
Virginia Jones – Virginia Middle School Association  
John Littlefield – Regional Study Group II Representative  
Dave Mirra - Regional Study Group III Representative  
Paul Nichols - Business and Industry Representative  
Royce Paige - Virginia School Boards Association  
Marilyn Walls - Regional Study Group I Representative  
Sherry Ward - Virginia Council for Private Education  
Melissa Warren – Virginia State Reading Association

### **Department of Education Personnel**

Lan Neugent - Department of Education Advisor  
Gloria Barber – Director, Office of Educational Technology  
Nonie Barnstein – Division of Technology  
Jason Ellis – Office of Educational Technology  
Linda Holt – Office of Educational Technology  
Charlie Makela – Office of Educational Technology  
Mark Saunders – Office of Educational Technology  
Joyce White – Office of Educational Technology  
Flora Cosby – Office of Educational Technology

## **Agenda**

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by Jim Carroll, Chair. He thanked John Littlefield for hosting the meeting. Jim also recognized Lan Neugent for his accomplishments and the National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training (NCTET) 2004 Community Builder Award recognition. Lan acknowledged the components of the educational program that bring Virginia national recognition.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October meeting were approved as presented.

### **Old Business**

**Administrator Technology Competencies Update:** Lan Neugent reported that the competencies have been turned over to the Ed Tech Office to refine and fit into a framework that will be acceptable to the legislature.

**Interoperability Framework Discussion:** Lan Neugent reported that SIF is a national effort to get school software programs to communicate with each other. This is important not only to improve each school division's internal records but also to facilitate state response to national requirements. Virginia has signed up each division for a SIF membership. Many vendors are working toward developing agents and becoming SIF certified but it is an incomplete process at this point. Compliance does not equate to certification. Districts should look for the highest level of certification possible. Vendors may need encouragement to develop certified systems. The department is planning five additional pilot districts. Benefits of SIF programs include reduced manpower hours and improved accuracy. Benefits for pilot schools include ground floor involvement and the resultant learning. Another benefit is the technical expertise and the support received by virtue of being one of the few divisions working on this. Contact Bethann Canada or Peter Coleman email to express interest in participating.

**Budget Cuts:** Lan Neugent said that ten million dollars of technology money was zeroed out by the Bush budget proposal. Ed Tech Office supports restoration of the funding of the Ed Tech programs. Each member of VETAC should contact influential people in their areas to push for restoration of the money. The department will write up sample letters for VETAC members to use as a guide for when members write letters to illustrate how the funding helps locally.

**Computer/Technology Standards of Learning Update:** Charlie Makela reports the Standards will be presented to the Board of Education on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. At that time we will ask for public hearing. Based on the Board's action will proceed to public hearing or go back to the drawing board.

**EIMS – Demo of Capability of Support Tool:** Gloria Barber reported for Bethann Canada. Every division has an EIMS username and password. Many divisions have started using the system, which now has 1048 users. Pearson has conducted studies with six divisions. The website is available. February 17<sup>th</sup> is next Birds of a Feather Session. Audio conferences are available on an ongoing basis. Automation-Hanover is nearly completed and ready. For account contact your project manager. Go to EIMS website, click on project manager for PDF list.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Virginia Learning Infrastructure Initiative:** Dr. Alan Edwards gave an overview of the initiative to establish a Higher Education Learning Technology Advisory Committee for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. The goal is to have a state level conversation about higher education students' technology experience. VETAC members are invited to give ideas to Jim Carroll for consideration at LTAC.

**Local Assessment System SOLO Presentation:** John Littlefield, Bill Flaherty, and Chris Baugh gave a report on the assessment system developed by Suffolk for online testing, data reporting and

recordkeeping. - *Standards of Learning Online*. Suffolk is willing to share with districts that will reciprocate with assessment content.

**Tour of King's Fork High School:** John Littlefield gave a tour of the new King's Fork High School.

**Draft of Letter for continued funding:** A motion was made Bill Flaherty and seconded by Royce Paige to draft a letter from VETAC to encourage the restoration of the proposed federal technology budget cuts.

**Announcements:** Jim Carroll thanked John Littlefield for hosting the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Bill Dotson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marilyn Walls seconded. The meeting was adjourned.